

Noun declensions

6. All nouns, when given in a formal definition, will show the following information:

1. Nominative Singular form, 2. Genitive Ending, 3. Gender, 4. Definition

Ex. puella, -ae, f. - girl

7. From this formal definition, we can identify puella as a 1st declension noun, because its genitive ending is -ae

1st Declension

Markers and Identifying Features:

1. The 1st declension is mostly feminine in gender
2. Its thematic vowel (its 'unique' or 'special letter' of -a
3. Its genitive ending is -ae
4. All nominative forms end in -a

Ex. puella, -ae, f. - girl (Stem: puell-)

Case	Singular	Plural	
Nominative	<u>puella</u>	<u>puellae</u>	• Note that the stem
Genitive	<u>puellae</u>	<u>puellarum</u>	has dots underneath,
Dative	<u>puellae</u>	<u>puellis</u>	and the <u>case-ending</u>
Accusative	<u>puellam</u>	<u>puellas</u>	is underlined,
Ablative	<u>puella</u>	<u>puellis</u>	

* There are some exceptions to this rule:

• navita, -ae, m. - sailor

• agricola, -ae, m. - farmer

and others, etc.